

# AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO ENTERTAIN MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES ON TODAY

Mr. BERMAN (during consideration of H.R. 1886). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized on this legislative day to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to House Resolution 529.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1256. An act to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products, to amend title 5, United States Code, to make certain modifications in the Thrift Savings Plan, the Civil Service Retirement System, and the Federal Employees' Retirement System, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 407. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2009, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, to codify increases in the rates of such compensation that were effective as of December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2254

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2254.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 848

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 848, the Performances Rights Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

## CONDEMNING SHOOTING AT U.S. HOLOCAUST MUSEUM

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 529) condemning the violent attack on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10, 2009 and honoring the bravery and

dedication of United States Holocaust Memorial Museum employees and security personnel.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

### H. RES. 529

Whereas, on June 10, 2009, an armed assailant with ties to white supremacist organizations, a conviction for a violent crime and a history of anti-Semitic and racist activities opened fire at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum;

Whereas, the gunman was a convicted felon and obtained a firearm in violation of Federal law;

Whereas, security personnel at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, U.S. Park Police, and other emergency responders, responded quickly and valiantly to ensure the safety of museum visitors and staff and other bystanders;

Whereas, Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns, who had worked at the Museum for six years, was fired upon by the gunman and later tragically succumbed to his wounds;

Whereas, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was established by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which was created by Congress in 1980 (Public Law 96-388) and mandated to create a permanent living memorial museum to the victims of the Holocaust;

Whereas, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum was dedicated on April 22, 1993 and has since welcomed nearly 30 million visitors, including more than 8 million school children and 85 heads of state;

Whereas, the primary mission of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is "to advance and disseminate knowledge about this unprecedented tragedy; to preserve the memory of those who suffered; and to encourage its visitors to reflect upon the moral and spiritual questions raised by the events of the Holocaust as well as their own responsibilities as citizens of a democracy."

Whereas, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum serves as one of the world's leading authorities on the Holocaust;

Whereas, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, created to remind us of what happened and what could happen when hatred turns into violence, has tragically become a target itself;

Whereas, the attack at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is a horrific reminder of the violence that can stem from anti-Semitism, racism, hatred, intolerance, and Holocaust denial;

Whereas, President Obama stated, "This outrageous act reminds us that we must remain vigilant against anti-Semitism and prejudice in all its forms. No American institution is more important to this effort than the Holocaust Museum, and no act of violence will diminish our determination to honor those who were lost by building a more peaceful and tolerant world": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the violent attack on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on June 10, 2009;

(2) honors the bravery and dedication of the employees and security personnel at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and rededicates itself to the safety and the security of the Museum and its visitors;

(3) offers its condolences to the family of Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns who was killed in the line of duty;

(4) redoubles its commitment to advance the mission of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial

Museum to educate people about the Holocaust and fight against anti-Semitism, racism, hatred and intolerance; and

(5) urges the American people to join the Hour of Representatives in condemning this act of hateful violence and intolerance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this resolution places this body on record as condemning yesterday's violent attack on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, while also praising the bravery and sacrifice of those who defended against this attack. The resolution further recognizes the powerful and vital role that the memorial museum plays in the world and rededicates this Congress to assisting wherever possible in helping the museum to accomplish its mission of education and enlightenment.

First and foremost, let me join my colleagues in expressing our deep sadness and heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Security Officer Stephen Tyrone Johns. It is our hope that, despite what must be nearly unbearable grief, those who loved Officer Johns are also filled with enormous pride at the service he rendered during his distinguished career and the sacrifice he has now made.

Everyone involved in the tragic events of yesterday proved something about themselves. Officer Johns, along with the security and other emergency personnel who responded, proved that training, dedication and bravery in the face of life-threatening events can save lives.

Officer Johns in particular reminds us that there are those among us who volunteer to stand watch over us, even knowing that they are risking their own lives.

The perpetrator of yesterday's attack proved something as well. His actions demonstrate that ignorance and hatred still exist and too often lead to violence. By his actions, this man demonstrated that the very evil which led to the Holocaust, the very evil he had sought in the past to deny, still exists and still must be resisted vigilantly.

And going forward, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum will prove something as well. There was a time when people with hatred in their hearts were powerful, a time when those who devalued others based on race or religion held in their hands the levers of power. Those days are over.